it. You are almost the only one that knows a word about it. I will explain all in due time. I again say, do not hint anything about – because, its consummation depends upon its being kept hid for two or three weeks. It is rather a queer affair, & must remain so till the deed is done.

Also, you must manage the affair of the books, with privately in your Committee, or else it will be blazed out that we are selling you books at ½ price in order to break down Garrison & Co!

I shall see about the packets & steamers today. Let me hear from you very soon. Let there be a special meeting of your Committee if possible – as the time is very short. By the by, no doubt your Committee could sell books to the N.E. State depositories – Also, if it is so arranged that I could draw on some of you people once in a month while absent this might possibly answer my turn. Tho' it would perplex me some.

Yours truly, H. B. Stanton

Private.

Rev. Amos A. Phelps,
Boston,
Mass.

PAID

MS.A.21.11.38

have in our Depository & such as are suitable for libraries &c. Tell Brother Brackett, King &c. that this is a perfectly fair & safe business transaction, as well as a rare chance to give your Society a lift.

Now, Bro Phelps, you will see that I am in earnest in this matter, & I will tell you why, provided you will keep it a secret from your wife even, & of course from all others, till I give you leave to divulge. I suppose I shall be married in about a month, & that the lady will go with me to England. Although the affair has been some months negociating, yet it is only a week that has settled it that I must take a traveling companion with me. I cannot now tell you the lady's name, nor much about her only that she is every way worthy of me, yea, far too worthy — is from a high family & is wealthy. But, parents, kindred, sisters &c. &c. have violently opposed the match, chiefly because I am an abolitionist. Her father disinherits her, & puts her off penniless. We thought of putting off the whole affair till my return but, as the time draws near for my departure, she will not consent to be left behind in the hands of her opposing friends, & wishes to go with me so that the storm may blow over while she is absent. You may judge of her character when I tell you she has cut loose from one of the most aristocratic families in the State, given up her fortune, & wedded her soul to the A.S. cause at the call of duty. She is a lady of high mental accomplishments, pious & strong abolitionist. Well, the responsibility is upon me. It was thrown on me unexpectedly — for, we had made arrangements not to be married till my return. I cannot think of going to England without money, & I must raise it from the books. Will you, dear Brother, aid me in this matter, by pushing this thing in your committee, & making it go? You see I am in a delicate predicament, & that my honor is at stake. — I hope there will be no delay in this matter — & that your Com. will act in some way speedily. For, the time is short — & if you do not take the books, I must make other arrangements. — I enjoin the strictest secrecy about this matrimonial affair till you hear from me further on

& make the purchase? I will say (this must be inter nos) that I will make even a greater deduction than 50 per cent, as a last resort — tho. that is great enough in all conscience. — How can the thing be done? Answer. Brackett, King, Alden, Russell, &c. must raise the money on their notes, & take credit on the books, & also take "the promise to pay" of the Committee. This will be ample security. And enough to pay them would in my opinion be realized in 6 months, provided the thing were pressed as it should be. Just make a noise about the Depository in the papers, write to your local societies, instruct your agents to push the matter wherever they visit & get libraries established, & the thing will go — especially as the old society could not compete with you in regard to price. Now will they be able to get many books at any rate — for, paying off me & Bering at 50 per cent will, with some other such demands, sweep our shelves nearly clean! So, then, if the old society get possession of our concern here in the Spring (as I think they will) they will find it "a barren sceptre." We have already disposed of the Emancipator (inter nos) to Leavitt, & if your committee will come up to the work we shall end the Depository pretty much. Our stereotype plates will go to pay another demand, & therefore, if the 25 committees with any Emancipator or any A. S. books, they must hand over the cash & print them anew from the stereotype! This is inter nos, also.

I shall have $3000 worth of books at ~~Depository~~ wholesale prices. These your committee may have for $1500. I earnestly wish they would take the whole. But if not, will they not certainly take a part — $1000 — or, as a last resort, $500? Of course, if they take less than the whole, they would not expect to pick out of them, but take a fair assortment, such as we

Private

H. B. Stanton

New York Tuesday

[17 april 1840?]

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Dear bro Phelps, I wrote you a couple of letters yesterday by the mail, in regard to your Committee taking some A. S. books of me. I wish to add a few words on that & another subject.

[Since I wrote you, our Committee have had a meeting, & have agreed that I may take a General assortment of our books at 50 per cent discount from wholesale prices, sufficient to pay me. From the looks of things here, I presume, this is all I shall get for my debt.] And this is enough to make me abundantly safe ultimately. But the difficulty is, I want money to enable me to perform my European tour.

Now then, I can give your Committee a rare opportunity to get a good depository at a low price. By taking these books at 50 per cent discount, you will be able to undersell, if you please & do so, the old concern, at least 33⅓ per cent! This will place you in the market without a rival. If you take the books, make a noise about them in the Abolitionist, & take some pains, you can no doubt by sales and in the way of libraries, dispose of enough to cover the cost the first six months! When I say "you" I mean the Committee of the Massachusetts Abolition Society. You have, of course, means to live, with the Lord's blessing, & go ahead. To do so, you must have the means of life the main spring & wheels to make you move, such as a General Agent, a paper a Depository, &c. &c. All I want in regard to this matter is to be secure in receiving some cash. With such a rare opportunity before them, will not your committee go forward